

Action Girl

COMICS

number 3

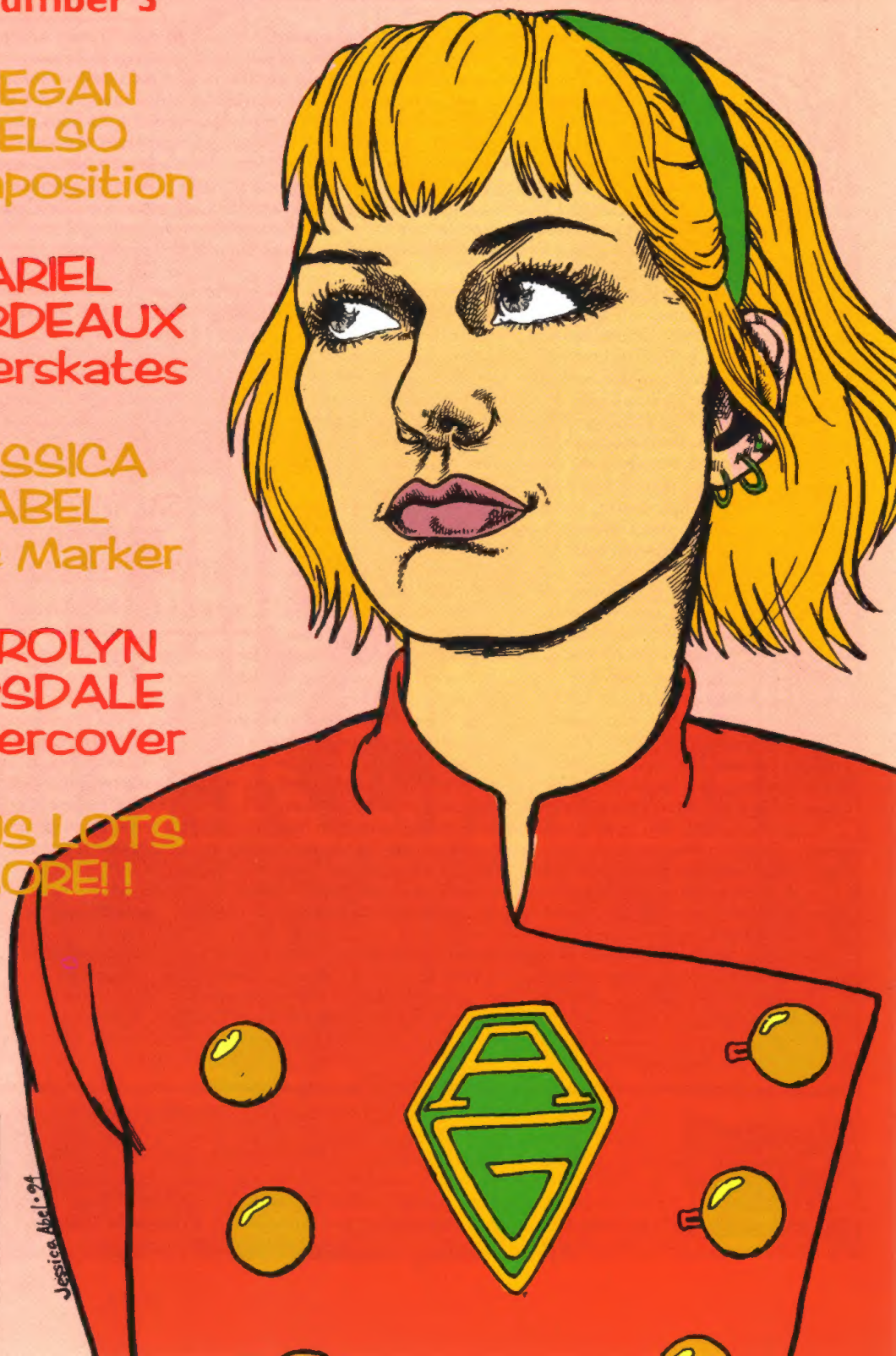
MEGAN
KELSO
Composition

ARIEL
BORDEAUX
Rollerskates

JESSICA
ABEL
Mile Marker

CAROLYN
RIDSDALE
Undercover

PLUS LOTS
MORE!!



Jessica Abel 04

\$2.75

Action Girl

COMICS



Voilà! You have discovered *le troisième numéro de Action Demoiselle!* Thank you so much for picking it up! For any first-timers, *Action Girl Comics* is basically an anthology showcasing female cartoonists. AGC has an all-ages sensibility, and is girl-positive and female-friendly — but never anti-boy. As far as content — well, it is actually closer to zine than a typical comic — it is wholly my comic, not some publisher's collection of stuff. The material contained in this book is hand-picked by me and will always reflect my sensibilities. But the most important facet of *Action Girl* is accessibility. Inclusion, not exclusion, that's my goal. So please enjoy, no matter who or what you are!

I'm forgoing my usual informational pep-talk this issue to talk to you about comics. Right now (March 13th) the comics industry is in a total state of flux — it may all seem like a bad dream 6 months from now, but no-one seems to know what the future of the small press is right now. Things have always been difficult for self-publishers and small publishers, but with the ongoing shake-ups in the distribution

system everyone's more nervous than ever.

To sum things up for those of you who aren't into comics enough to follow these things: Comics are put out by a publisher, then bought by a distributor (based on pre-orders from individual stores), then bought by those stores, then (hopefully) bought by you, the reader. If any of those links fails, the comic doesn't get into to your hands. Right now the distributors are the worrisome link in the chain — by the time you read this, one or more of them will probably not be carrying books like this anymore. Which means that any store who orders books like these (from those distributors) will be forced to either find a new distributor to buy from, or they will simply stop buying them. Which means that it may become harder for you to find books like this that you like.

But this isn't really a new problem. While readers should be the important part of the equation, they have for a while been at the mercy of the whims of those who stand between them and the publishers of the comics they read. Several people wrote to ask me why AGC #2 hadn't come out yet — weeks after it had. They thought it wasn't out because they didn't see it — but they didn't see it because the stores in their area didn't order it. And I think almost everyone in the small press has heard similar stories.

What does this mean to you? Well, if you care about any small-press book, even if it's a "best-seller" like *Cerebus* or *Bone*, you need to become an active consumer, not a passive one. If you want small-press titles, be very vocal to your preferred retailer about it. Make sure they order those books you want to buy. Try to become aware of what's available and get your retailer to get it for you. There is absolutely no book that a retailer cannot get for you. If they claim they cannot, they are either lazy or lying. If a shop will not order certain books for you, take your business elsewhere — all of it. (If you buy DC, Dark Horse, Valiant etc. books, don't buy them from a shop that won't carry the other books you want. Put your money into a shop that will cater to you as a customer. That's what retailers are supposed to do.)

And if you're ready to go farther — do whatever you can to support the books you like. Write to the creators and let them know you support them. If you see an opportunity to expand readership of any book you like, do it! Write reviews, get new shops to carry it, send copies to your friends (cheap xmas gifts!!). Any kind of press is good — a write-up or interview in a local free paper might not seem like it would do a lot, but in a market where many well-known books still sell around 1,000 (believe it) every reader counts.

Predictions for this year range from "everything will be better than before" to "half the comic shops in America are going to go out of business". No-one knows how things will turn out, but one thing is for sure — if you do not make an effort to support small-press books, you will have no right to complain when you can't buy them anymore.

To those of you who are already taking an active role as readers (and I know there's a lot of you) — Thank you!!! You're what's gotten the small press as far as it's come! And to those of you who haven't yet — please think about it before it's too late. Losing the independent books won't be good for anyone.

Well, looks like I ended up with an informational pep talk anyway! Sorry I'm not full of my usual cheer, but these worry lines are giving me a headache. Hopefully it'll all turn out for the best and we'll all be happy in six months.

Thanks go to all the usual suspects, plus those reviewers who have recently plugged AGC, and of course, YOU! My obligatory "soundtrack" for this issue includes — Pizzicato Five (*Bossa Nova 2001*), Deadbolt (*Tiki Man*), WFMU (91.1 FM), Cocteau Twins (mostly *Heaven or Las Vegas*) and Rocket From the Crypt. Cover designed/executed/colored by *moi*; illustration by Jessica Abel. Look for the fabulous fourth issue in July!

SEND LETTERS, COMMENTS, SUBMISSIONS,
AND PRESENTS OF SANRIO TO:

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STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306

e-mail: Alilena@aol.com



Action Girl Comics #3 — April 18, 1995 Created and edited by Sarah Dyer. Published by **Slave Labor Graphics**. President: Dan "Sanchez" Vado; Publisher: Craig "My Hero" Pape. Action Girl title and character © & ™ 1995 Sarah Dyer. All contents © 1995 by the respective artists and writers. No part of this magazine may be reproduced, except for purposes of review. Any similarity to persons living or dead is satirical in nature or a shocking and total coincidence. **Printed in Canada.**

Third Printing - February 1998



CLOUDS HEAVY WITH THE THREAT OF RAIN HAD BEEN LYING IN WAIT FOR US ALL DAY.

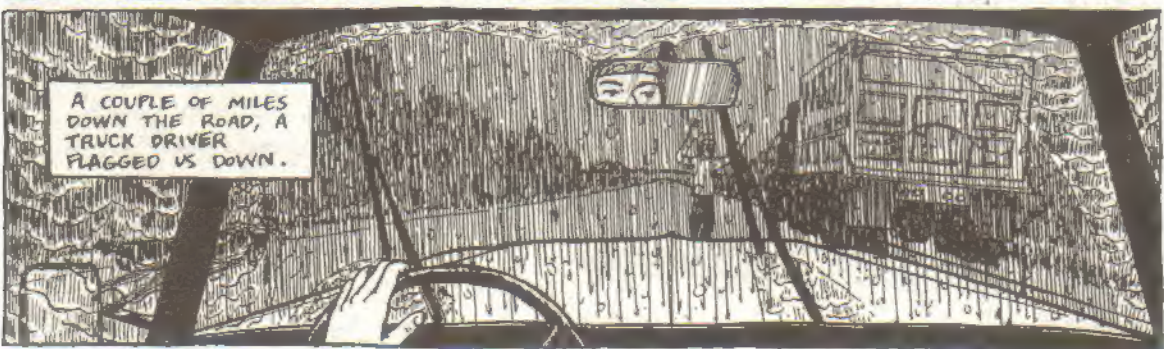
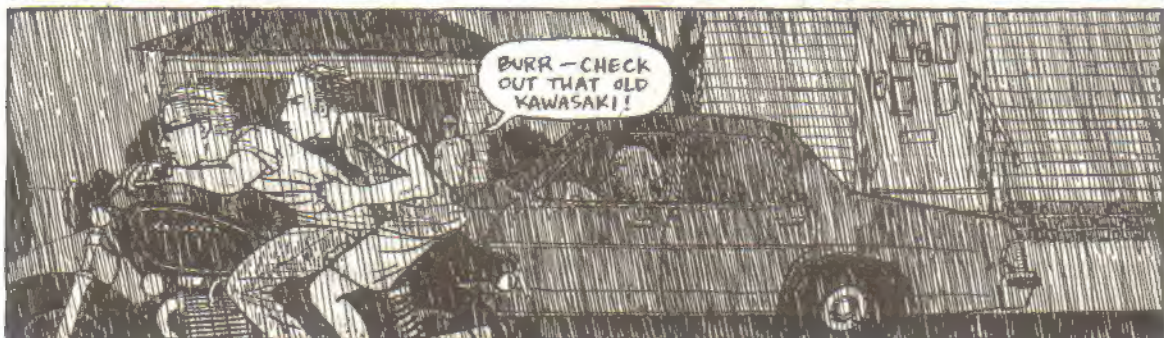


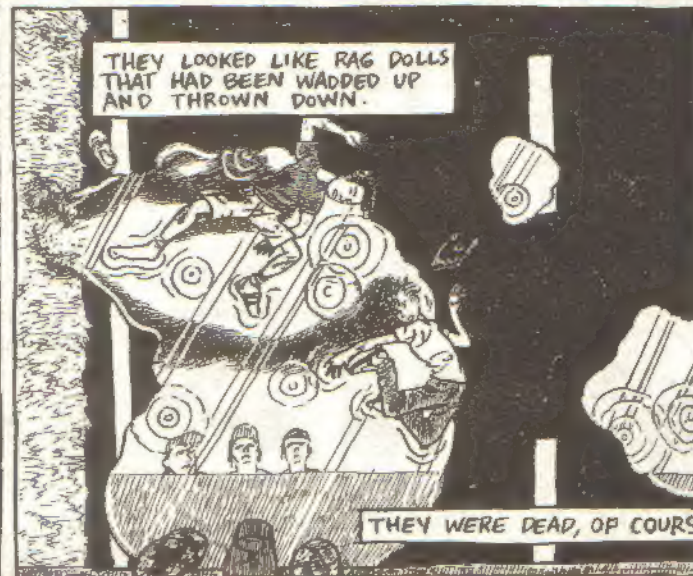
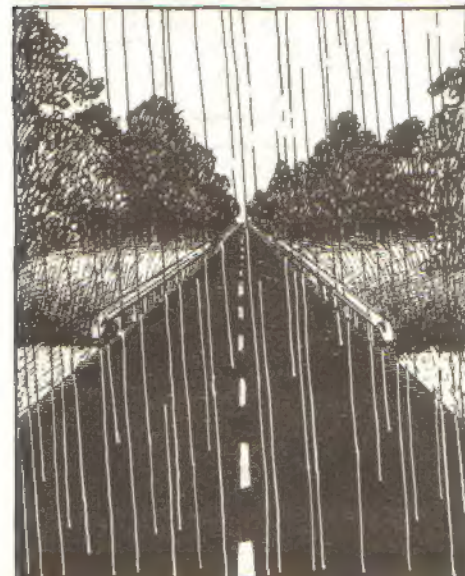
WE HAD KNOWN IT WAS COMING, BUT WE WERE BEHIND ON THE JOB, SO WE WENT TO WORK ANYWAY. IT WAS GOING TO BE A DOWNPOUR. ANYBODY COULD SEE THAT.

a true story by jessica abel © 1995

mile marker







Tobey's TIPS FOR FANBOYS

IF YOU'VE READ THIS FAR,
YOU'RE A FANBOY.



YOU STILL LIVE WITH YER
PARENTS, YOU TAKE SUPER-
HEROS SERIOUSLY, AND
THE ONLY CONTACT YOU
HAVE WITH 'GURLS' IS THE
LADY YOU BUY ALL YOUR
COMIC BOOKS FROM...



ERGO,
YOU'RE A
FANBOY.

BUT THAT'S OKAY... I'M
HERE TO HELP YOU TO
MAKE YER MISERABLE
LIFE A LITTLE EASIER...



SMUG
KNOW-IT-
ALL

YES, YOU MAY BOW TO ME
O PITIFUL ONE

TIP #1: YOU CAN MAKE
FRIENDS AT PLACES BE-
SIDES COMIC BOOK SHOPS

DID YOU KNOW
THAT THERE ARE
PLACES TO GO BE-
SIDES COMIC BOOK
SHOPS?

YEAH!
COMIC BOOK
CONVENTIONS!



TIP #2: YOU CAN BE-
COME SELF-SUFFICIENT

YOU COULD
GET A JOB!

AT THE COMIC
BOOK SHOP?



TIP #3: IF YOU CHOOSE
TO, YOU CAN DATE GIRLS

I HAVE A NICE
FRIEND WHO'S
KIND OF DES-
PERATE...

DOES SHE
LOOK LIKE
SHE-HULK?
TEE-HEE!



TIP #4: FIND A NEW HOBBY

YOU CAN DO
THINGS BE-
SIDES COLLECT
COMIC BOOKS!

I KNOW! I COLLECT
AUTOGRAPHED
COMIC BOOKS!



TIP #5: WHEN YOU FEEL
GOOD, YOU LOOK GOOD

DO YOU EVER
EXERCISE?

YUP, I LIFT A
STACK O' COMIC
BOOKS EVERY
DAY!



TIP #6: WHEN YOU LOOK
GOOD, YOU FEEL GOOD

DO YOU EVER
BUY ANY NEW
CLOTHES?

I JUST GOT A
COOL SPIDER-
MAN T-SHIRT!



TIP #7: ...UM... I DON'T KNOW
...I THOUGHT I COULD HELP.

I FEEL SO
ASHAMED.

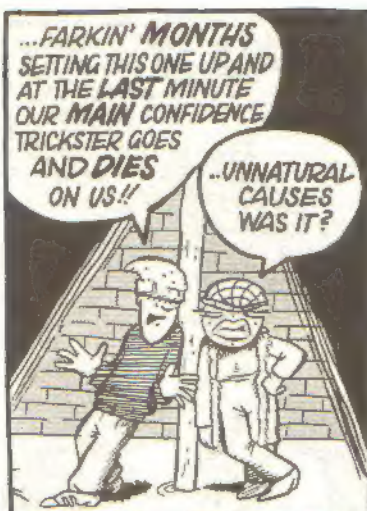
YOU NEED TO
RELAX. HERE,
READ THESE.



...GOSH...
THESE ARE
PRETTY GOOD!

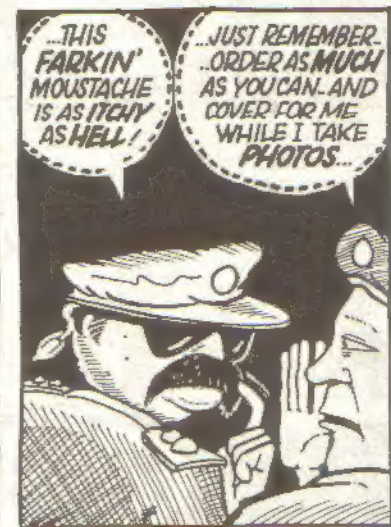
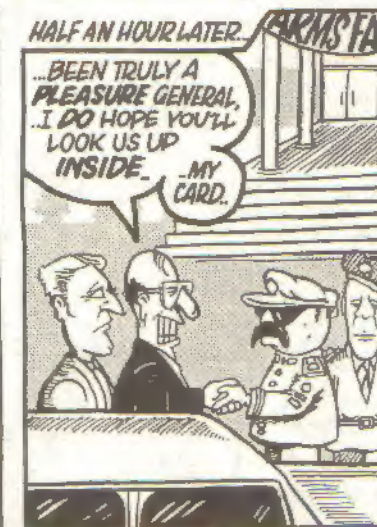
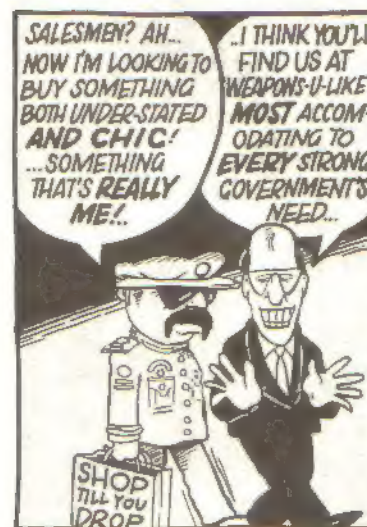
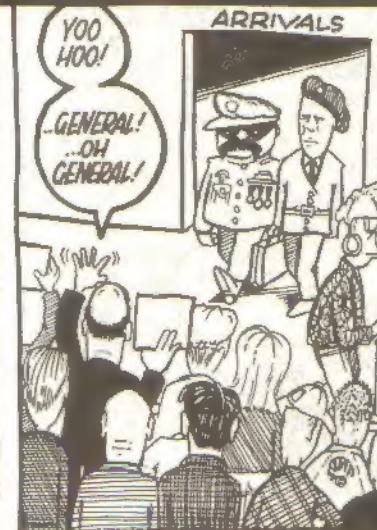
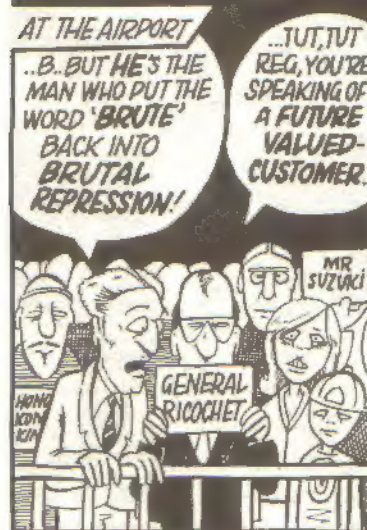
CAREFUL
NOT TO
BEND 'EM.

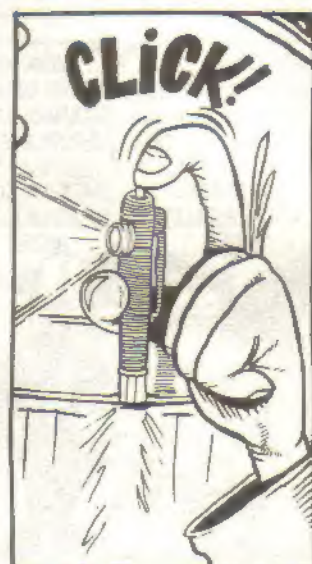
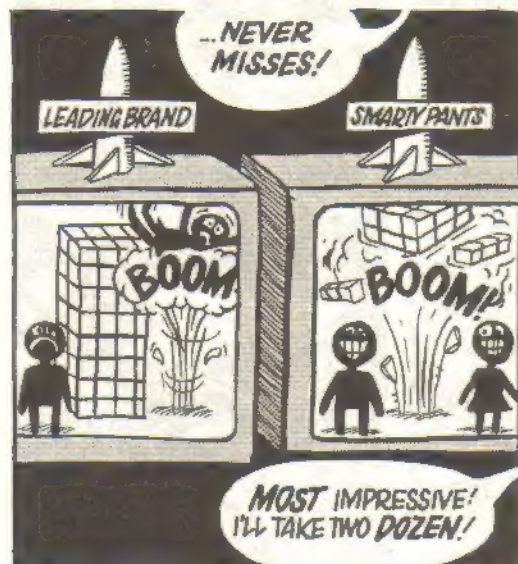
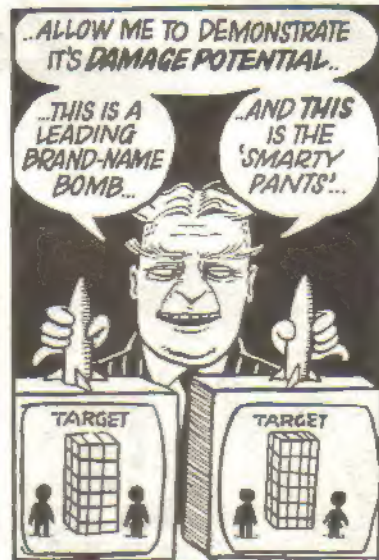
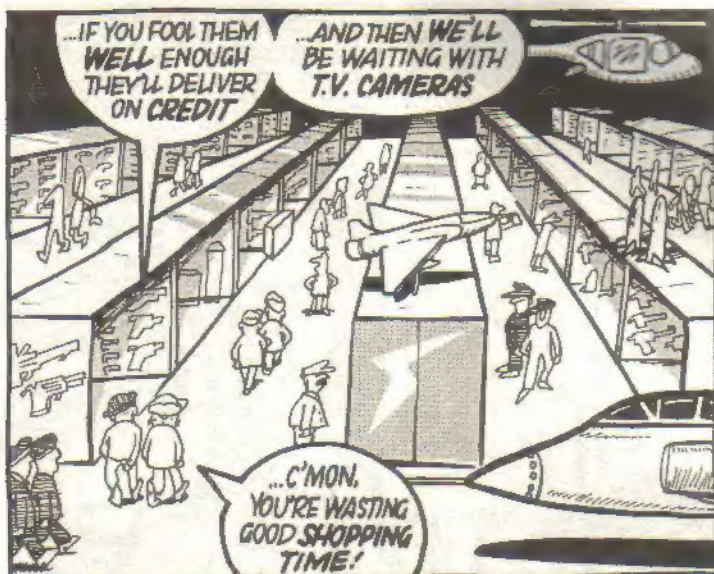


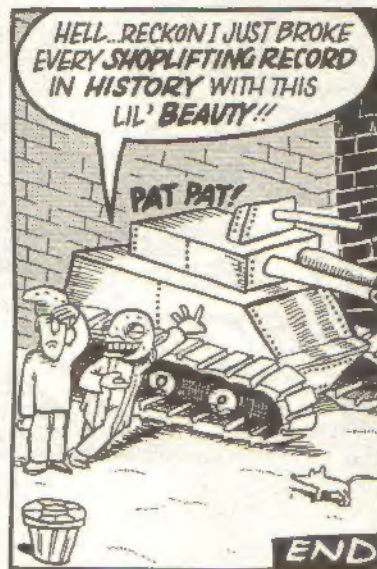
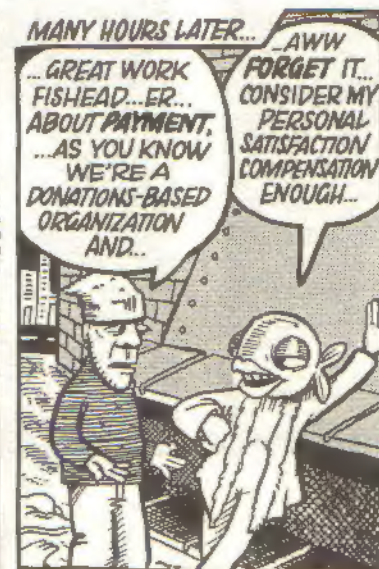
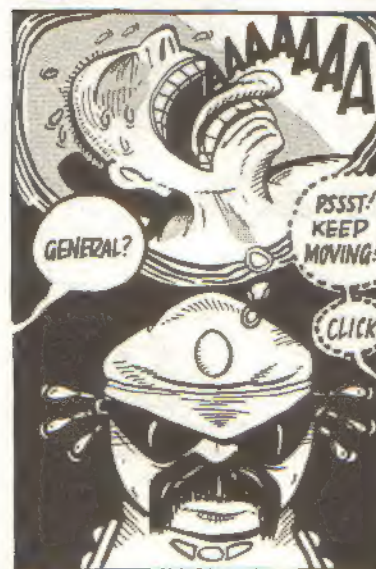
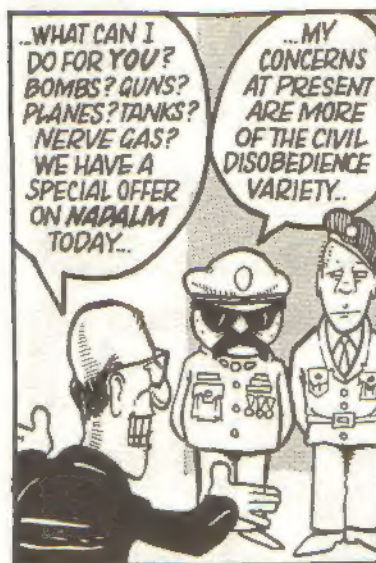


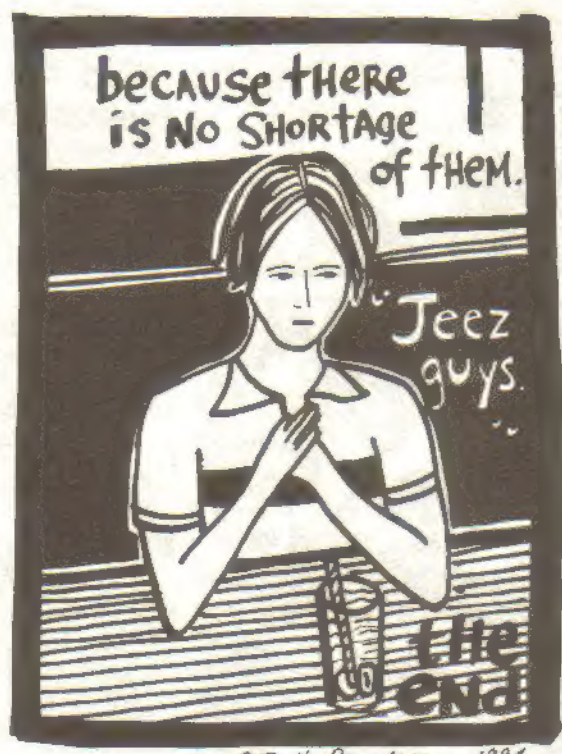
FISHEAD GOES UNDERCOVER!

©1995
CAROLYN
RIPSDALE



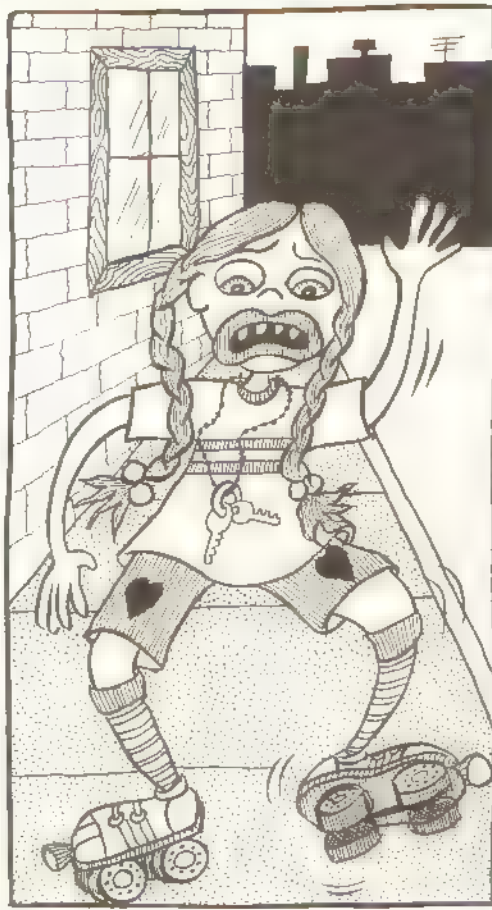
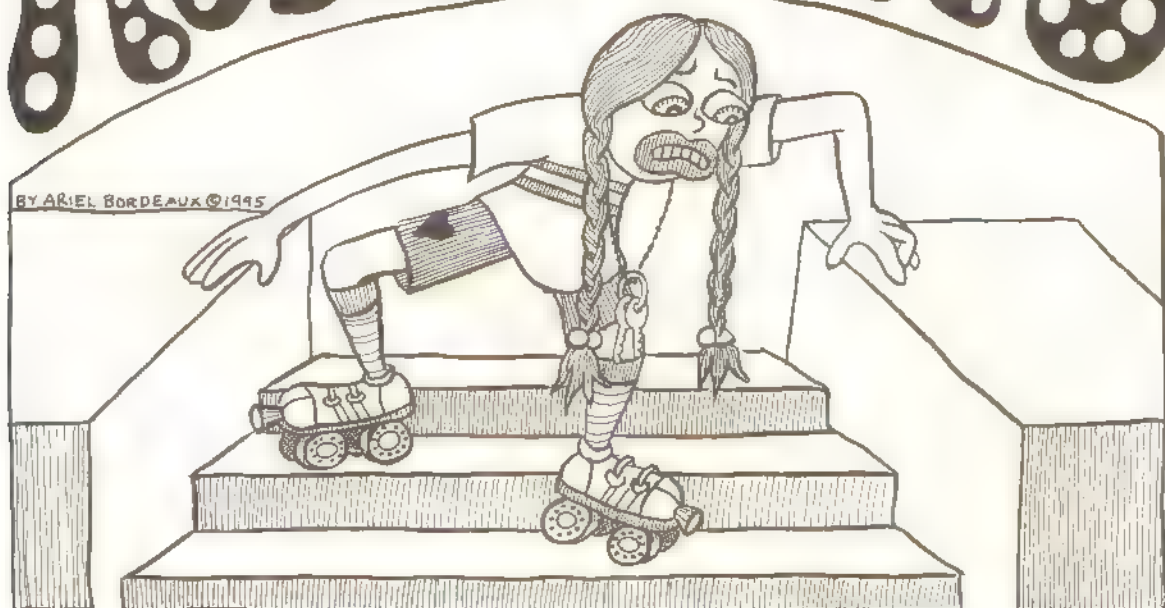


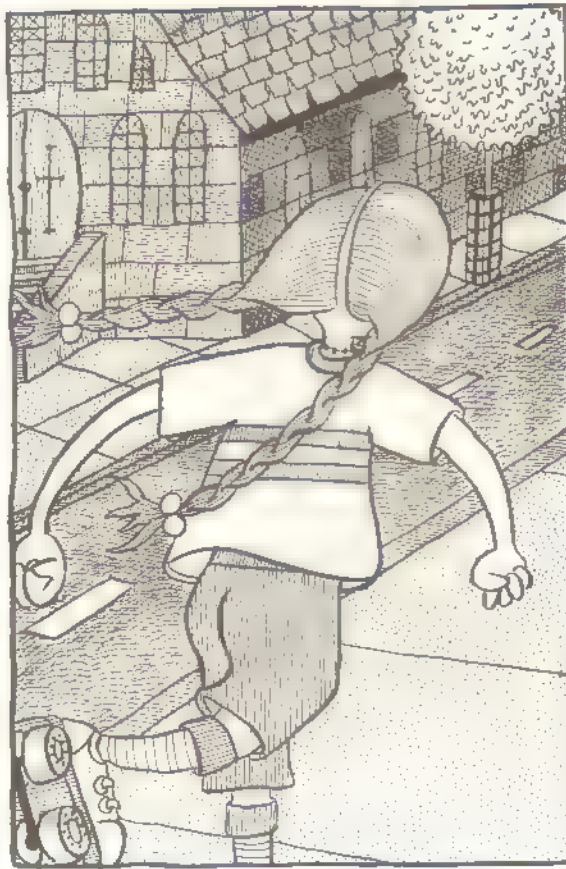
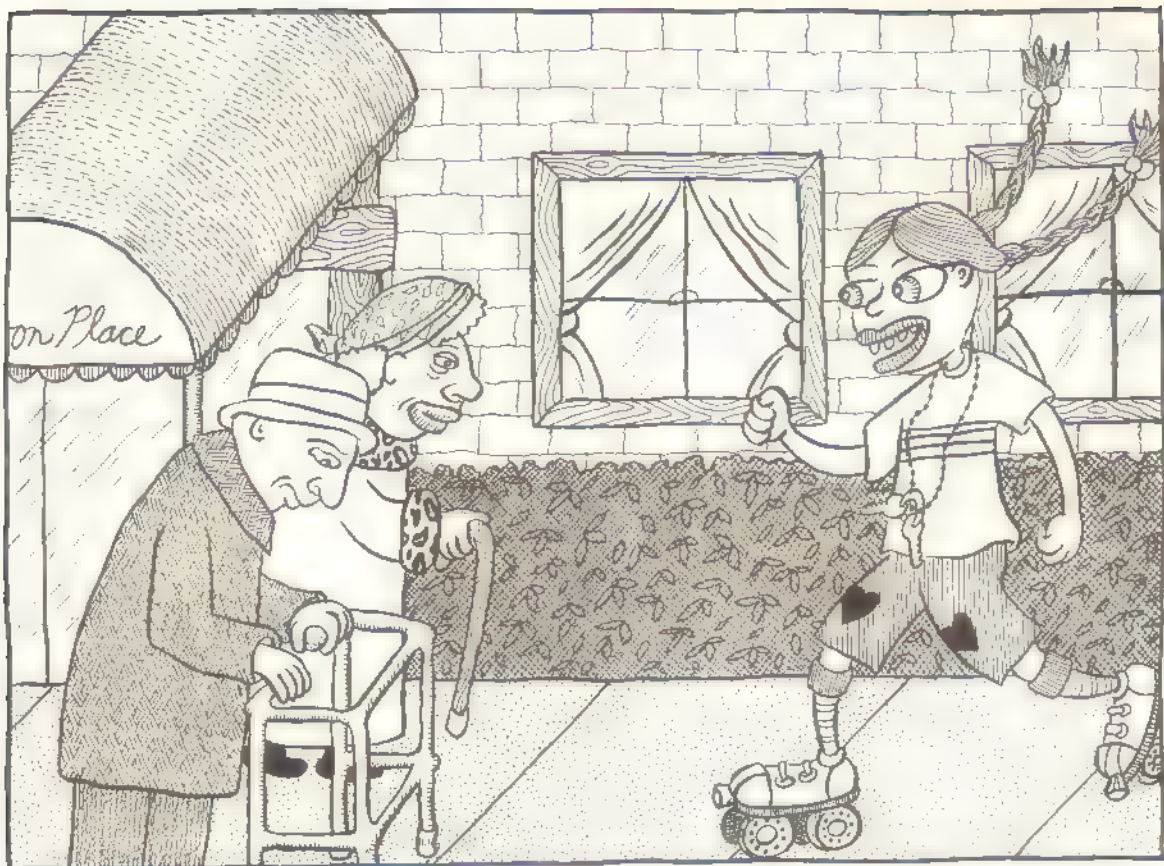


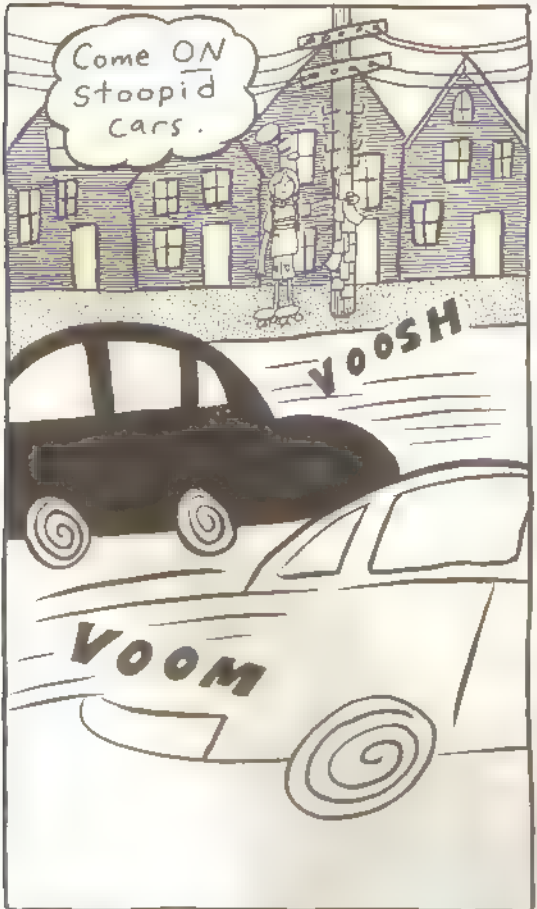
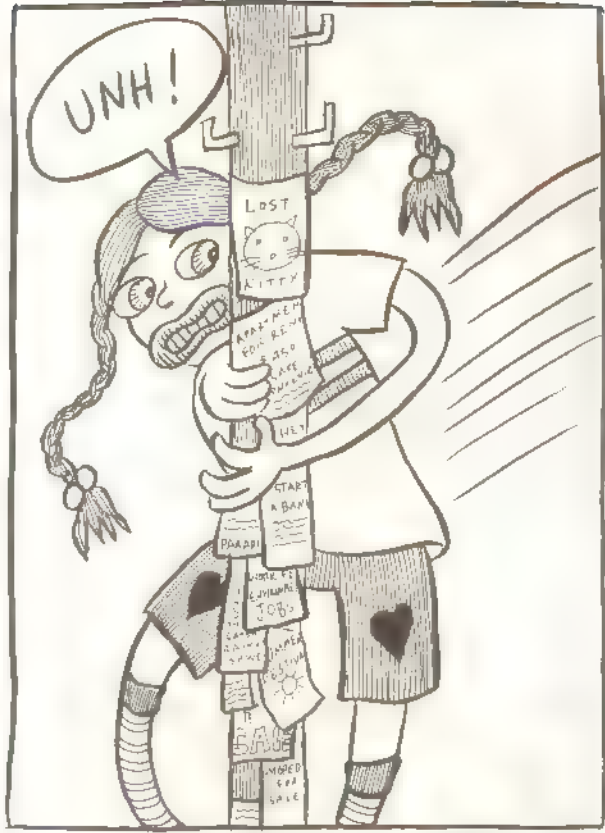


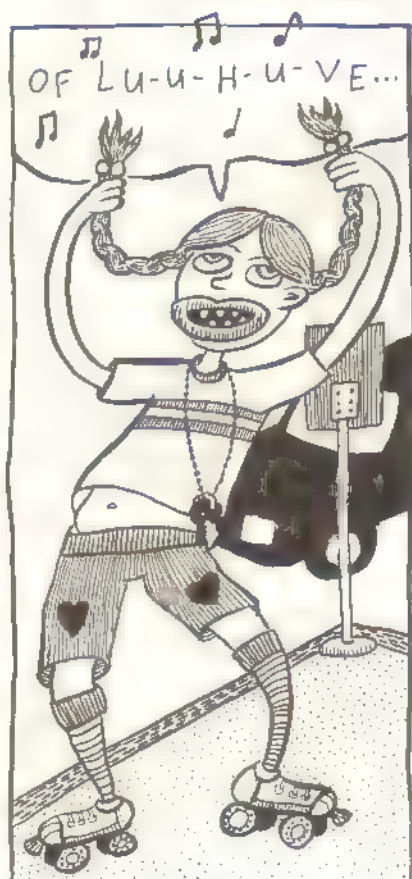
ROLLERSKATES

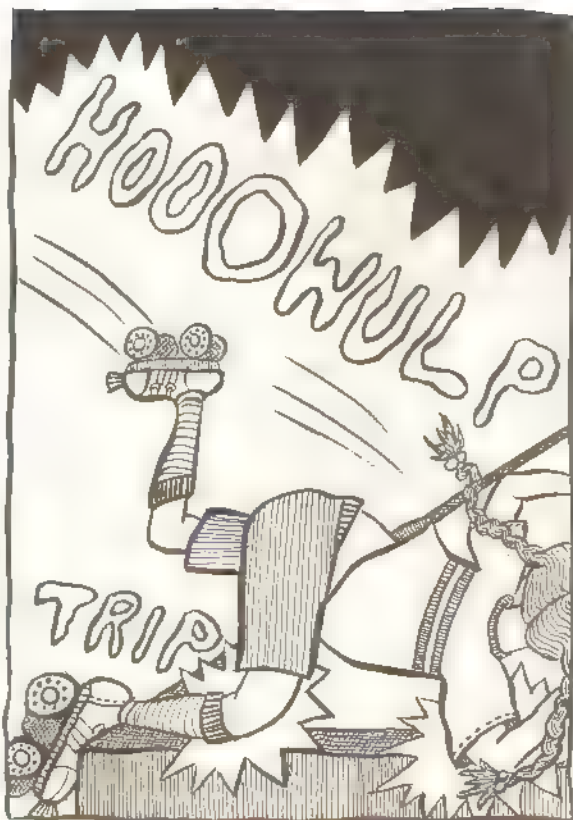
BY ARIEL BORDEAUX ©1995















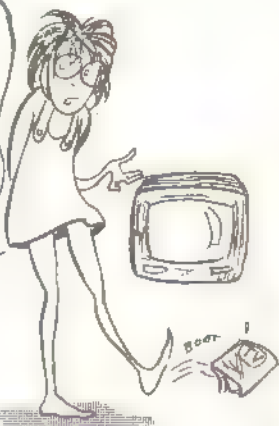


All Girls Together





HELLO THERE....UH
I GOTTA TELL YOU
SOMETHING. IT'S REALLY
PATHETIC, BUT SEE,
IT'S LIKE THIS - EVERY
NEW FALL T.V. SEASON
MY CARTOONING
PRODUCTIVITY JUST
GOES OUT THE
WINDOW! SAD, HUH?



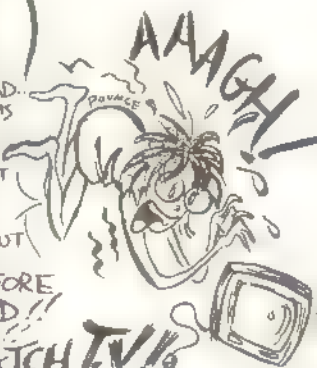
WELL HEY! I JUST
GOTTA CHECK
OUT ALL THE NEW
FALL LINEUPS! I'M
DRAWN TO THAT...
THAT... **DAMN
IDIOY BOY!**
I KNOW IT'S BAD
FOR YOU!! I KNOW
IT ROTS YOUR
BRAIN!!
MY MOMMY TOLD
ME SO!!



I KNOW I SHOULD BE
DOING A MILLION OTHER
THINGS... **DRAWING!!**
READING... **DRAWING!!**
CLEANING MY APARTMENT
**DRAWING...GOING ON
DATES... DRAWING!!**
BUT **SORRY I... I CAN'T
STOP!**



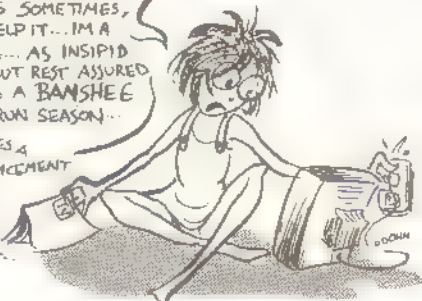
I **NEED** TO SEE IF ANGIE
ON 'MY SO CALLED LIFE' IS
GONNA POP THAT ZIT!!
I **NEED** TO SEE FRAISER
GET ONE UPPE BY HIS DAD...
I **NEED** TO SEE IF ELLEN* IS
EVER GONNA COME OUT OF
THAT CLOSET! I GOTTA
SEE WHAT THAT IMP BART
WRITES ON THE CHALK-
BOARD EACH WEEK!!
I JUST **HAVE** TO CHECK OUT
THE SHOWS THE CRITICS
CALL WRETCHED!! BEFORE
THEY'RE CANCELLED!!
DONT YOU SEE?
I HAVE TO WATCH TV!!



WH...OH...YOU'RE
STILL HERE...
UH...



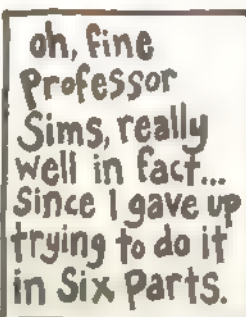
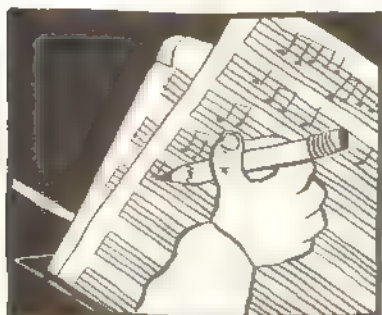
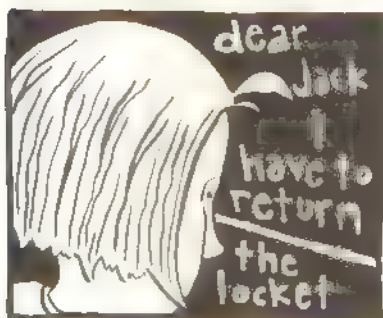
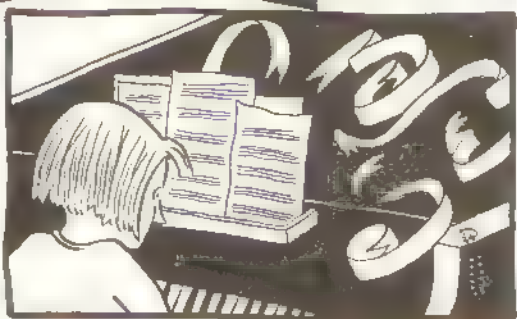
I THINK I'VE EXPLAINED
MYSELF AS BEST I CAN...
I'M REALLY SORRY I'M SO
BOURGEOIS SOMETIMES,
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT... I'M A
MEDIA JUNKIE... AS INSIPID
AS IT IS... BUT REST ASSURED
I DRAW LIKE A BANSHEE
DURING RERUN SEASON...
...LESS THERE'S A
SUMMER REPLACEMENT
I HAVEN'T SEEN

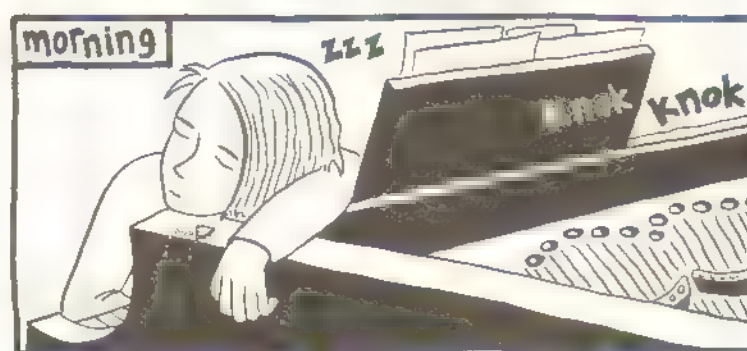
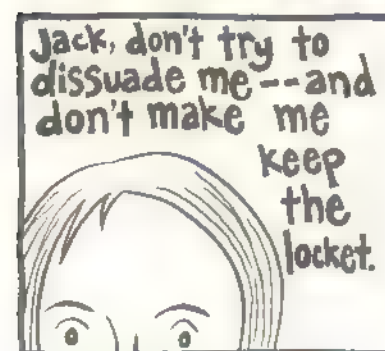
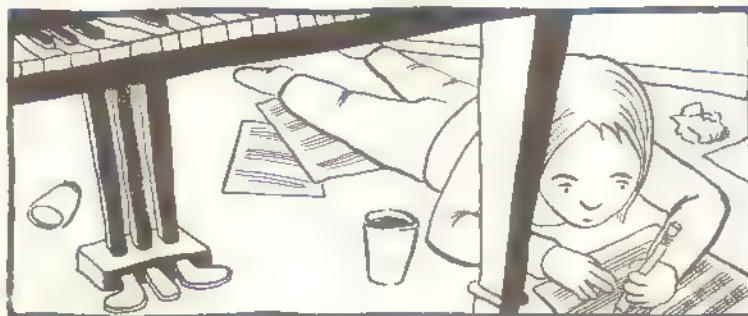
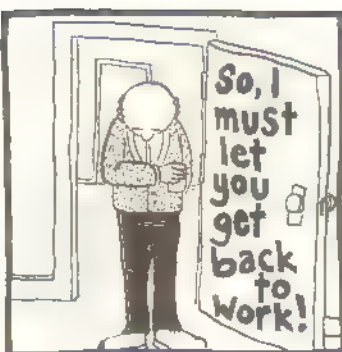
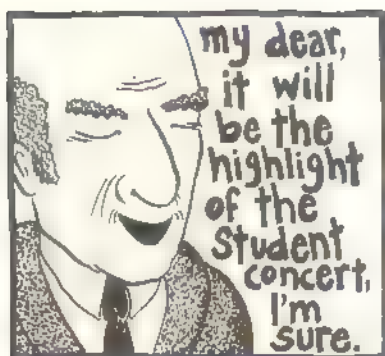


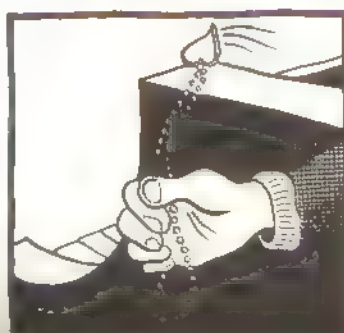
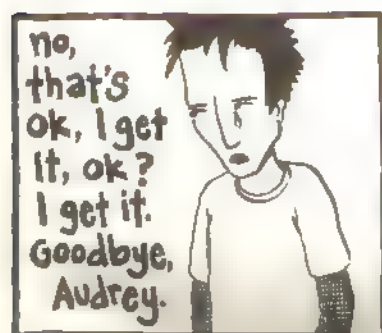
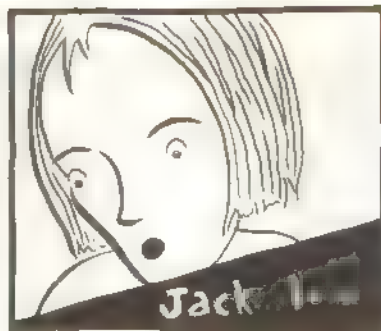
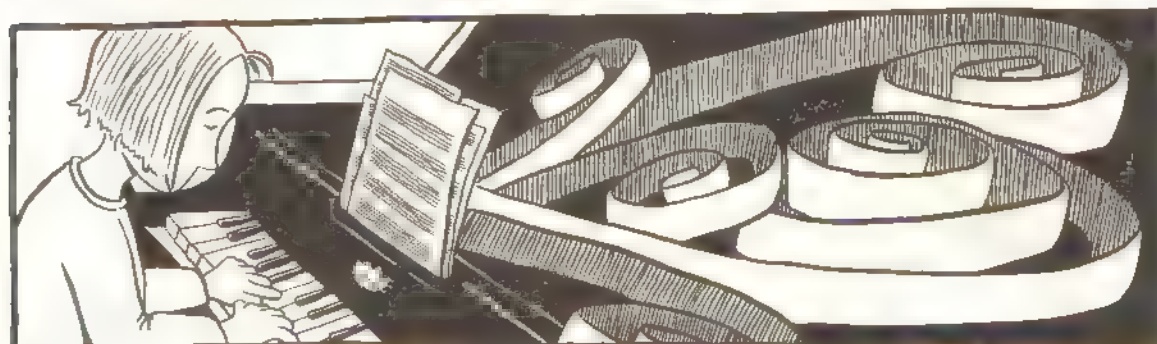
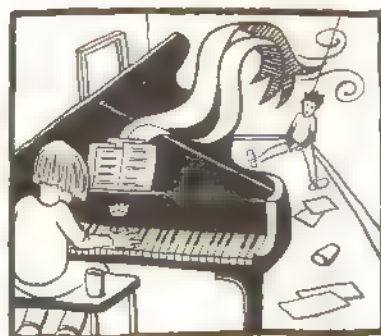
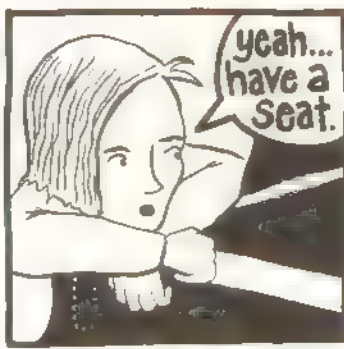
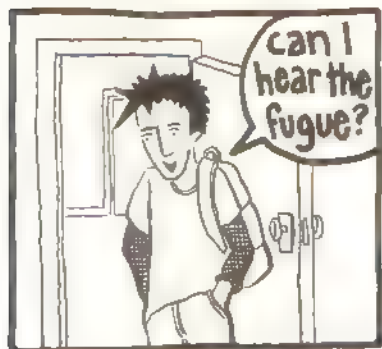
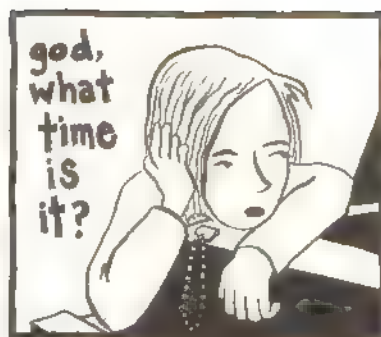
...UH, YOU CAN GO NOW...
DARLENES ABOUT TO
TELL ROSEANNE TO
GO TO HELL...



composition







Your Hostesses:



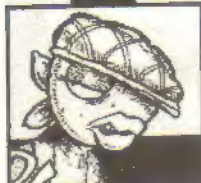
Sarah Dyer is a very over-worked and (this winter, at least) flu-ridden Sanrio addict who had to cut her own page from this issue due to said illness. (Well, the car accident didn't help.) For a catalog of all of Sarah's self-publishing (including: the music/essay zine *Mad Planet*; the personal *Kikizine*; and all the components of the *Action Girl* empire) send a SASE to the address inside the cover.



Jessica Abel lives in Chicago and self-publishes *Artbabe*, also known as *L'Artb  b  * and *Kunstm  del* in some parts of the world. She has a small quantity of *Artbabe* #2 left, and plenty of #3, so please send \$2 (ppd) for each issue to: Jessica Abel, 1573 N. Milwaukee, #423, Chicago, IL 60622. She also has a few 7" singles of her band, *Bender*, which include a six-page comic, for \$4.



Chris Tobey lives with her husband and cats in either New Jersey or California. Her work has appeared in *Robin Three: A Sticky Jam Session*, *Little Bitty Brian*, *Duck Butter Funnies*, and *Eater Rules: The Best of Duck Butter*. Known to suffer from sugar overdoses, she spends the better part of her time spoiling her cats and obsessing over *Animaniacs*.



Carolyn Ridsdale is an Australian expatriate now living in Amsterdam after serving time as an illustrator & comic strip creator in London. Her work appears regularly in *Girlfrenzy* and *Fanny*, and has recently self-published her first comic, *Moist* #0, which boasts the most succulently screen-printed cover around some of her best-known work (including more *Fishead* stories). Available from *Slab-O-Concrete*, PO Box 148, Hove, BN3 3DQ, UK for (US)\$5 ppd.



Emily Ryan Lerner is an angst-ridden teen from New York City, who is currently in the middle of several new projects for *Teenage Crime Wave*, the publishing empire of which she is co-founder. Her available work includes *Youth Runs Wild* (zine, 50¢ + 2 stamps) and *Anti-Social Commentary* (mini-comic, 50¢ + 2 stamps — #1-3 available). She has also been published in her school's underground magazine and in various friends' zines. You can order her work from: *Teenage Crime Wave*, PO Box 12, Old Chatham NY 12136, or send a stamp for further details.



Ariel Bordeaux is a happy, but anxiety-ridden, self-publisher who does not advocate such actions as hitting old folks in the shoulders. Her work has appeared in several publications such as *Real Stuff*, *the Stranger*, *Pulse*, *On Our Butts*, and the upcoming *Happy Mutant Handbook*. Her own *Deep Girl* is widely acclaimed, and issue #5 will be available from her this summer for the miniscule price of \$2.50 ppd. Send for it to: 573 Scott St L, San Francisco CA 94117.



Carol Seatory was trained as a graphic designer and dreams of fame as a tap-dancer or as a character in *Love and Rockets*. Her work has appeared in *Girlfrenzy*, *Sofa*, been exhibited in the *Drawing Room* comic show and regularly appears in British magazines. Her books, *The Book of Big Hair* and *Making a Spectacle of Yourself* are available for £25 and £2 respectively from *Girlfrenzy*, PO Box 148, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3DQ, UK. (Write first for availability and postal rates.)

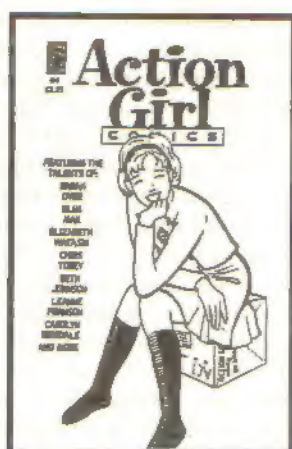
Your Hostesses:



Patty Leidy is currently living in Atlanta hobnobbing with other cartoonists and hitting every coffee shop in search of that perfect atmosphere conducive to great comic stories. A Hello Kitty nut since 1980 and collector of Pez and all things strange. Her work has appeared in *Dog Soup*, *Naughty Bits*, and a local paper, *Draw!*. Her solo book (32 pp., fullsize) is now available for \$3 + 3 stamps from: 985 Greenwood Ave NE #2, Atlanta GA 30306. Send strange toys and get a free drawing!



Megan Kelso is a cartoonist from Seattle who self-publishes a quarterly comic called *GirlHero*. Her work has appeared in Seattle's weekly *Stranger*, *On Our Backs*, *Thorn*, *Rocktober* and *GirlFrenzy*. *GirlHero* is available for \$3 ppd from: High Drive Publications, 4505 University Way NE #536, Seattle WA, 98105. (4-issue subscription available for \$12.)



Next Issue:

Issue four is coming together and looks fab already. The cover (at left) is designed and illustrated by me, and it'll be ten times spiffier in full color! And the insides will be just as brilliant — a new 6-page story from Elizabeth Watasin, an amazing full-on superhero Action Girl story (introducing the maybe-evil Neutrino) by me and Elim Mak, new work by Kris Dresen, Chris Tobey, Carolyn Ridsdale and more. It will be out in July (especially for the San Diego con, for you con-goers). Ask your comic shop to pre-order it for you so you don't get left behind. Need back issues? Ask your shop to get them or order direct from Slave! ♥ Sarah

And now I'd like to present the *Action Girl Comics* official t-shirt, featuring our favorite heroine, Action Girl herself, and drawn as a present for me by honorary action boy Evan Dorkin. Proclaim your hipness, your intelligence, and your loyalty to Action Girl all at once by wearing this awesome shirt. (And I think you'll probably not be seeing it on too many other people.) Printed in a fabulous shade of Power Purple on white, sizes medium through extra-large. (Note: girls; I'm 5'10" and I may be on the skinny side but even the medium isn't tight on me. If you've got a small frame you'll be swimming. I recommend ordering smaller than you might think you need.) Be the first on your block to sport this hallmark of true coolness. Also, there is a black-and-white sticker of this design, pretty good sized, too (about 3" x 5"!!). And you can get it absolutely free by just sending in the coupon on the back of this page. You'll also get a (free) catalog from Slave Labor to make ordering that much easier. And if you do want to order a shirt or comic, you can do it when you send in your coupon. C'mon, you know you want to!



Action Girl

further reading:

Well, of course I'm going to keep recommending that you get the full run of *Action Girl Comics* if you haven't already done so. Try to convince your favorite retailer to carry it in their shop (we need retailer support badly) — but don't deprive yourself. If they won't get it for you, call Slave Labor or send in the handy coupon on this page.

MINI-COMICS: Almost every AGC contributor has a great mini available (which you'll see listed in their bios). But I'm always looking for more. (Girls who do mini-comics — please write! Your name could be here!) One exceptional mini I got in the mail recently is Amy Ahlstrom's *Moist* (not to be confused with Carolyn Ridsdale's *Moist*) — it's in that kooky extra-vertical format that I always like, and is a dedicated bi-monthly mini! (A new concept in self-publishing...The Schedule.) Some of the early stuff is in an almost-primitive marker-looking style, but she's now working almost exclusively in really appealing ink-and-wash, with very loose brushwork and some great attention to gesture. Very post-punk. The Ox 'n' Ollie storylines are not to be missed. Send Amy \$1 and a nice note asking for the latest issue: PO Box 7744, Chicago IL 60647.

ON THE NON-MINI SIDE OF THINGS: This year's shojo manga (Japanese girl's comic — can you believe it's a whole genre over there?) offering from Viz is *They Were Eleven*, by Moto Hagio. She is apparently famous for her science fiction stories — this one was popular enough to be made into a film which has already come out on video here. Ellen Forney has gotten a second issue of her excellent *Tomato* (Starhead) out recently. I liked this issue even better than the last — great storytelling, strong and varied art. The new Spike and Birdie story was fantastic!

GIRL-FRIENDLY BY GUYS: lots of guys do comics that are relevant and interesting to women. One I've found out about recently (because he sent it to me) is Jimmie Robinson's *Cyberzone* (Jet-Black Grafiks), an adventure book with a more-or-less "super" heroine, Amanda, who wears a much more realistic (and cute) outfit than you expect from genre books. It's sci-fi adventure, which I know some girls aren't into (but plenty are), with an interesting story and cool art that begs for color. I've only seen #3, but I rate it very girl-friendly so far. I mentioned the co-ed *Very Vicky* (Meet Danny Ocean) last issue, but have to give a special mention to the new issue (#7) for the "Fussiest Girl in America" back-up story which had me rolling! And of course, the always cool *Love & Rockets* (Jaime & Gilbert Hernandez, Fantagraphics) and *Hectic Planet* (Evan Dorkin, Slave Labor).

FROM THE QUARTER BIN: Last issue I mentioned a couple different old books that can often be found in 25¢ or 50¢ boxes at shops and cons. At a recent NYC con, I combed through the tons of early/mid-eighties dreck in the boxes and came home with some pretty cool and funny stuff! I found an issue of *Supergirl* (#9 — 1973) that's from her cheesy hot-pants-costume period (although it's so much better than what they're putting them in these days). In this issue, Supergirl rescues a young couple and discovers...her boyfriend! Cheating on her! After a few more guys give her shit, she swears off men and ends up going to Paradise Island (home of Wonder Woman) where she becomes an Amazon, temporarily. Of course, she realizes that her duty is to help *everyone* so she goes back home at the end. Weirdest/funniest quote: Queen Hippolyta swears, "Suffering Sappho!" Also notable: *Lois Lane* #116, for its back-up story, a reprint of the very first "Dr Pat" story from 1949. (Dr. Pat's a dashing and daring lady doctor who loves her job and danger!) Plus a cute Rose & Thorn vs. Poison Ivy, and while I hate Lois, in this issue Superman has an eyeball for a head! Another: *The Defenders* #45, in which the guys are all enslaved and the girls have to rescue the world (go, Valkyrie!) And the coup: An issue of *Teena* (#21) from 1949, by Hilda Terry, who was the first woman admitted into the National Cartoonists Society. And it's a pretty great comic! I also got a book signed for the first time in my life — Gene Colan was there, so I dug out issue #15 of *Marvel Super Heroes*, which features a book-length story he drew starring my all-time fave, Medusa! He was so nice...and his wife gave me cough drops!

That's it for now. 'Til next time...make mine hello kitty!

Would you like more **action girl** stuff?

If you simply fill out this coupon (or a copy of it) and mail it to Slave Labor, you will receive a **FREE!** Action Girl sticker (of the cool t-shirt design) and a Slave Labor catalog, featuring several of the titles mentioned above. Trust me, this sticker is more than worth a 32¢ stamp! Fill out and send to: **SLG Publishing, 325 South First Street #301, San Jose, CA 95113**

my name: _____

my address: _____

city: _____ state: _____ zip: _____

I can't wait to get my free sticker and Slave Labor catalog! Also, please send me the following:

- ___ copy/copies of *Action Girl Comics* #2 (I missed it, waah!) **\$2.75 plus postage**
___ copy/copies of *Action Girl Comics* #1 (I am so out of it!) **\$2.75 plus postage**
a fabulous *Action Girl* t-shirt, size ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large **\$13.99 plus postage**

(Make checks/money orders out to Slave Labor Graphics. Enclose \$1.50 postage for the first book, 25¢ for each additional book; \$2 for the first shirt, \$1 for each one after that.)

Action Mail

Sarah Dyer, POB 060380
Staten Island, NY 10306
e-mail: alilena@aol.com

Well, I thought I'd try this lettercol thing. I had letters last time but no time to type them in...so there's letters here from #1 and #2, as well as letters both real and electronic. Also, published letters are only from the ones I got, so all the great gushing fan mail sent directly to all the brilliant artists in AGC isn't here. But you can be sure they've all been complimented roundly. Anyway, here we go...

DEAR SARAH, Hey! Wow! Just finished reading *Action Girl Comics* and I'm so inspired! Really cool! Smashing! Dashing! Debonair! Super-wham-o! I liked it. I have been doing some drawing lately, but didn't allow the thought of doing a comic until I read, "Don't think you can do comics? Try anyway!" Yes! I will. Until next time, take care and have fun. Thanks for all your encouragement, Sarah! Carrie Cantrell

You go, girl! But, less sugar, huh?

SARAH -- I bought *Action Girl* #1 & #2 at Jim Hanley's Universe a couple of weeks ago, and I wanted to tell you how much I loved them.

There was a time, way, way back in the late 1980's, when you could buy a cool anthology comic like *Row* or *Weirdo*, and there would be something new, different, and exciting in each time you bought an issue. That was what got me hooked on comics in the first place. When I read *Action Girl*, it was the first time I felt like that in a long time. Thank you, and keep up the good work. Tom Scola

My favorite letter! Thanks, Tom, it's more than appreciated!

HELLO SARAH DYER, I just picked up *Action Girl Comics* yesterday. I am very happy about it. Comics are on the top of my list of things I'd like to do. Naturally then I am very concerned with women in comics, and how they are portrayed within them. I really liked what you said about getting out of the comic shops and to the drawing board... Gretchen

Thanks, Gretchen, and thanks for the cool pinup of AG! Stay motivated...

HELLO, I'm a boy, 28, teach Jr. High and High school English, and I enjoyed this issue as much as the first.

I enjoyed "Mortality", with *Action Girl* and *Flying Girl*, the most. The clean lines of art and dialogue were equally pleasing. I particularly liked the discussion of "otherness" in the context of taking action and "flying". This is not to say I didn't like the rest of the mag. "Liliane", "Zero Hour", and the paper dolls pushed my buttons especially. Thanks for your work! Richie Younce

See, boys like me. Because I'm nice to them too.

HI SARAH, I went to my local comic shop tonight for the new releases and the person that owns the shop said I might find a couple

things I like in the b&w stack...so I see AGC#2 and snagged it, and then searched the disorganized store :) to find #1 and I am so happy that I did! The past three years I've found myself searching out more and more women artists and with AGC, I hope it will last as long as possible with the artists you have contributing and many more to come. thank you so much, beth [schaefer]

Let's hope so...I'd like to see AGC go on as long as possible, and with readers like this, it just might be possible!

...OF COURSE you don't have to be biased to know that this is one of the best anthologies out there right now. I just read #2 this morning and there wasn't anything in it that wasn't first-rate. It would be real hard to pick a favorite from this book, the art styles show a great range of styles, the stories indicate a wide range of concerns. Sarah, you have fabulous taste. Bart

Stop! I'm blushing...

SARAH, What a great comic! As far as I'm concerned, you just can't have enough strips about Hello Kitty.

Best, Martha Thomasas

You've got that right, Martha.

DEAR SARAH, Thank you so very much for *Action Girl Comics*! Thank you for the great variety of styles and subject matter. Thank you for the wonderful, positive, energetic spirit of your editorial and the whole book. With so much of the "alternative" market (in every medium) being dominated by whiny slackers, it's great to see work by people who are actually getting something out of (and putting something into) life. And thanks for printing the work of so many people I've never seen before, but now want to see more of! Not the least of which is yourself...your cover and paper doll pages were absolutely charming, in the best sense of the word. A Jack Kirby reference! That was the last thing I expected in a book like this, and it made me grin from ear to ear. Best, J. Kevin Carrier

Thank you, Kevin, for reading AGC! Now tell me, why were you so surprised to see a Kirby reference? (I ♥ Kirby)

HURRAY a new comic! I love it. I just happened to be walking past one of my favorite comic shops when I saw it. Up on the top shelf! So I marched right in and jumped up and snatched it. (Had to jump as I'm only 5'1") I was so glad to get it and I bet you're glad it's finally out. take care, Jana

Shops take note — Jana wasn't the only girl who found AGC out of her reach! AGC should be racked within easy reach of smaller types — even better, how about right up by the counter?

SARAH- *Action Girl Comics* rocks! I just picked up #2 and enjoyed it even more than the first! Not everything is to my taste, but hey,

the variety is part of the fun. If I had to pick a favorite from #2, it'd be "Mortality"...So how does one qualify to be an Action Boy? Best, Brian Saner-Lamkin

That's a secret...

DEAR SARAH, Hi! I just picked up *Action Girl Comics* #1 and have read *Mad Planet*, and I want to first tell you that I think everything yr doing just reeks of coolness. You inspired me to try comics, and though I discovered they're not my strong point, I'm working on some collages and stuff...I really appreciate yr work and need to tell you that you're one of the strongest role models for me. Mara Escowitz

Mara has the official Action Girl spirit! Go, Mara (Owl I think my head is swelling!)

HOWDY, SARAH. I just picked up AG#2 this evening & it's ultra-fine and dandy. Kris Dresen's "Don't" is one of those twisted zen haiku one-pagers that keep you up at night in quest of what token profundity can be wrung from this Starbucks Coffee of a life. I've also enjoyed the *Action Girl* cut-out dolls in this issue and #1 — hopefully because they're clever and amusing and have lots of short easy-to-read sentences, & not because I'm some slavering perv with a taste for drawings of girls in sports bras. It probably all boils down to the first & last time I tried to play with cardboard cut-outs, when my mom accidentally ran them over with the vacuum cleaner.

I admire your choices for the first two issues of *Action Girl* — you've managed to turn up a lot of great creators I hadn't heard of before, yet somehow avoided the nihilistic life-is-hell-join-me-as-as-wallow atmosphere that drags down so many alternative press books. I'm looking forward to AG going on to become one of those definitive comics franchises which you must buy if you have any desire to bask in the reflected glow of the really hip people.

Good luck with AGC#3 and so on, Jonathan Bellack

Thanks, Jonathan. I'd like to think "clever and amusing" rather than "you're a slavering perv" myself! Hey by the way, my life is hell, why don't you join me as I...hal just kidding!

Other unofficial members of the Awesome Action Advancing Alliance (i.e. they wrote in): John McCleod of the fabulous *Dishman*, Ray Cornwall, Lena Benner, Beth Greenberg, Gene Kannenberg, Jude Melling, Michael Ryan, Margaret O'Connell (who sent a lovely packet of magazine articles on things like Anna Sui), Mike & Helen Gould, Eric Reynolds, Brian Doherty, Bill Lynch (who sent me paper dolls of himself!), Eric Barnes and a bunch of people whose letters unfortunately mis-filed right now. *Big thanks go to anyone who wrote AGC up, especially Christine of Slug & Lettuce for the best review ever Excelsior!*